



Annual Report
on the
Health and
Sanitary Circumstances
of the
Town of Sherborne
For the Year 1921

by
T. MACCARTHY, M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.
Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHERBORNE.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR 1921.

*To the CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS
of the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

AREAS (acres) 929, less inland water 923.

POPULATION (1921 census) 6340. As the census was taken this time while the schools were in, 1000 is to be deducted to compare it with the 1911 census figures which were 5649. This shows a decrease of population of about 600 since 1911.

Physical Features and General Characters of the District.

The town lies chiefly on the Northern side of the valley of the Yeo. The highest point is 321 feet and the lowest 169 feet above sea level. The sub-soil is inferior oolite.

RAINFALL, from figures kindly supplied by Mr. Turton was 18'58 inches on 158 days compared with 32'50 inches on 211 days in 1920. The mean for the preceding five years being 36'53 on 202 days. This shows that in 1921 the rainfall in Sherborne was 18 inches short of the average for the five years to 1920.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations are agriculture, the manufacture of gloves, two large milk factories, one for silk-weaving, one for letter-press printing, and a steam laundry. Sherborne is widely known as an educational centre, being well provided with schools of every grade for both boys and girls.

No. of Inhabited Buildings 1921, 1350

No. of families or separate occupiers 1921, 1362

Rateable Value, £33,794.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £119.

(b) *Non-Pulmonary*—Males, nil. Females, 2. Ages 28 and 11 (Tubercular glands of neck). Total 2.

Tuberculosis of the lungs is notified, but other forms especially of the glands appears to be rarely notified. The attention of practitioners is being called to this, also to the fact that pneumonia is notifiable.

Ophthalmia neonatorum—There has been no case.

Causes of Sickness.

There is nothing noteworthy to report.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—The District Nurse, whose work is midwifery, does some sick-nursing in the cottages. She is under the County Nursing Association.

MIDWIVES.—The District Nurse is the only one. Two other midwives practice privately.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—Maternity and Child Welfare Centre supported by voluntary subscriptions, with the supervision and assistance of the County Council Welfare Nurse. Otherwise there are no Clinics or Treatment Centres.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSCRIBED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.—An Isolation Hospital managed by the Urban District Council, which also receives cases from the Rural District by arrangement. Its situation, and extent and nature of its accommodation, are satisfactory.

No Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children exists.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

(a) For Infectious Cases—There is a horse-ambulance.

(b) For Non Infectious and Accident Cases—There is a well equipped motor ambulance managed by the local male V.A.D.

LABORATORY WORK.—The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine has hitherto been used, but it is probable that the Pathological Department at the Dorchester County Hospital will be used in future, more especially for the examination of swabs, etc.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act 1889) adopted Dec. 11th, 1889.

Measles and Whooping Cough Act added on Jan. 16th, 1890, adopted 1st March, 1890, and applied to extended area by order of L.G.B. 19th ult., 1894.

Public Health Amendment Act 1890. Part II. and III. adopted 9th Dec., 1890. Commencement 2nd February, 1891 and applied to extended area by order of L.G.B. 1st Sept., 1896.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890. Adopted 9th July, 1894.

Bye-laws of 1901 are now in force.

Sanitary Conditions of the District.

WATER.—The chief source of supply is a well 206 feet deep, the average yield in normal times being 200,000 gallons per day. During 1921, the supply to the town has been shut off at 10 p.m. Early in the year this was done to economise coal during the strike, and later to economise water because of the drought.

Although at times lower than normal, and occasionally showing signs pointing to possible failure, it has not failed, but economy in the use of water appears to be necessary. The water from this well maintains its chemical and bacteriological purity. Analysis 19th Dec., 1921, says:—Chemically and bacteriologically pure. Total hardness 24·5. Permanent hardness 8·4. Free from smell. Slight reddish deposit of oxide and carbonate of iron.

The other source, "Dymore Spring," is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles outside the town, and normally yields 40,000 gallons per day.

This has been of bacteriological and chemical purity up to this autumn, when it showed some contamination with bacillus coli. It is now improving and analyses are made at frequent intervals. By a process of elimination we shall shortly, I hope, solve the question of the source of contamination and take steps to prevent a recurrence.

Taking into consideration the fact that water supplies are short and that our town supply is a mixture of the two waters, we did not think it advisable or necessary to reject the Dymore water, but issued a notice recommending the inhabitants to boil all water for consumption.

We require a second engine at our pumping station for security, as our present one is 50 years old, and although work-well, ought not to be relied on.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The river Yeo receives the effluent from the sewage disposal works.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The sewage works begun in 1913 and held up owing to the war have been completed and are working satisfactorily.

The whole of the district is well drained and the sewers are of adequate size.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There are about 1450 water closets in the district. There is a shortage in several of the courts off Newland and also at some of the cottages in Newland and Acreman Street.

All closets are now converted into water-closets.

SCAVENGING.—Refuse from houses, etc., is collected daily by the Council's workmen and carted to a field to the north of the town. Here it is set on fire and smoulders. A bye-law passed by this Council in 1901 is coming into operation on May 1st, 1922. Its object is to compel householders to use properly covered dust-bins, and to put the bins out not earlier than one hour before and take them in not later than one hour after the scavenging cart passes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—

Number of premises visited :

118 defects or nuisances discovered. The owners were notified and in all cases the necessary work was done.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.—

- a. Number of inspections made during the year : 734.
- b. Number of notices served during the year : 11.
- c. The result of the service of such notices : All complied with.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.—

Offensive trades : none.

Underground sleeping rooms : none.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools, especially public elementary schools, are all satisfactory.

Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—There are four milkshops in the town run in connection with four dairy farms situated in, or close to the town. Also one retailer who distributes his milk direct from the factory where he purchases it.

The supply and the arrangements for distribution are adequate.

The standard of cleanliness varies in the different cases from a high to a moderate one.

On the whole the conditions may be considered satisfactory, up to the average, and as good as one can hope for in the present uneducated state of public opinion on this matter.

The desirability of milking with dry hands is not realised, and I am not convinced that the milkers' hands and the cows' udders are in all cases thoroughly washed.

There are two factories which collect a large quantity of milk daily from the surrounding country for the making of butter, cheese, dried milk, etc.

There are five cowsheds in the district. 15 inspections made. No notices served, but reminders were sent to owners in May and October re Whitewashing.

(b) MEAT SUPPLY.—There are three slaughter houses. 12 inspections made. No notices served.

(c) OTHER FOODS.—Inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Administration of Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Number of Samples taken :

Bread	...	...		1	Lard	...		...	2
Butter	...	...	...	1	Lime Water	...		...	1
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	1	Margarine	...	...	...	2
Carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	1	Milk	...	..	...	3
Cheese	...	...	...	1	Piccalilli	...	...	...	2
Curry Powder	...	...	...	1	Tea	...	...	...	2
Citrate of Magnesia	...	...	...	1					
Flour	...	...	...	1					

No sample was found to be adulterated.

Public Health Staff.

Consists of the Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.—

1. The shortage remains much as it was. No measures are being taken to remedy the shortage. There is urgent need for at least 24 non-parlour cottages at about a rental of 5/- per week.

2. Overcrowding remains as before.

3. The general standard of house is moderately good with a few bad spots.

The vital statistics show that the health of the town has been satisfactory during the past year.

It compares very favourably with the rest of the country.

APPENDIX.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1921.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—	} Completion of the 36 cottages under the Ministry Scheme.
(a) Total.	
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme.	

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	324
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	94
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	12

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	42
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	21
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners ...	42
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts,

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :— ...	6
(a) by owners ...	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	None

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	None
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	None